

**In the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph [0016] on pages 5-6 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made.

A1  
A polishing composition (such as "Composition A") useful for polishing iridium pursuant to some embodiments of the present invention is comprised of an abrasive (typically an alumina) and periodic acid ( $\text{H}_5\text{IO}_6$ ) in aqueous solution (advantageously in distilled or ~~di-ionized~~ de-ionized water, referred to collectively herein as "DI" water). Periodic acid is capable of participating in a fairly complex group of chemical reactions. Periodic acid is a rather weak acid ( $K_a \approx 5.1 \times 10^{-5}$ ) and a strong oxidizing agent under acidic conditions ( $E^\circ = 1.6 \text{ V}$ ). Depending on the pH of the medium containing periodic acid, different reactive species can be called into play including  $\text{H}_5\text{IO}_6$ ,  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{H}_4\text{IO}_6^-$ ,  $\text{IO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{IO}_6^{2-}$ . During the short contact time in typical CMP processing, the primary periodic acid reaction is thought to be that represented below in Equation 1 (Eq. 1).

Please delete the paragraph [0021] on page 7 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made, before the appearance of the heading, "pH Ranges."

A2  
Thus, for example, a 10 kilogram mixture of Composition A may be prepared by combining 200 grams of an alumina (whether alpha-, gamma-, or a combination of alpha- and gamma-alumina) abrasive, 1 mole of periodic acid and the remaining of amount DI water. One form of alpha-alumina abrasive advantageously used in connection with some compositions herein is the commercial product "CR-30" manufactured by Baikowski Chimie Co. of ~~Annacety~~ Annecy Cedex 9, France. Other sources of alpha-alumina, as well as sources of gamma-alumina or alpha- and gamma-alumina, may also be utilized.

Please delete the paragraph [0068] on page 21 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made, before the appearance of the heading, "Composition K Component Concentration."

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Other Ir polishing compositions (such as "Composition K") pursuant to the present invention comprise the components of Composition C and a second abrasive as a suspension agent. In some embodiments, the second abrasive is an alumina abrasive in the form of "CR-140". ~~Cr-140~~ CR-140 is a commercial abrasive product manufactured by Baikowski Chimie Co. of ~~Annecy~~ Annecy Cedex 9, France, believed to comprise about 95% gamma-alumina and about 5% alpha-alumina. One example of component concentrations for Composition K is set forth in the Table XI.

Please delete the paragraph [00102] on pages 32-33 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made, before the heading, "pH Ranges."

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Other platinum polishing compositions (such as "Composition O") pursuant to some embodiments of the present invention comprise an alumina (alpha-, gamma-, or both) abrasive, periodic acid ( $H_5IO_6$ ), ammonium chloride ( $NH_4Cl$ ), and DI water. It is believed that the electrolyte, ammonium chloride, serves as a source of chloride ions that assist in metal etching. One example of component concentrations for Composition O is set forth below in Table XV.

Composition O Component Concentration

**Table XV: Typical Composition O**

Component	Component Concentration
Alpha-Alumina Abrasive (CR-30)	2 wt %
Periodic Acid	0.1 mol/1 kg
Ammonium Chloride	0.1 mol/1 kg
DI Water	Remaining weight amount to obtain final desired amount of Composition O

Please delete the paragraph [00114] on pages 36-37 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made, before the heading, "Composition Q Component Concentration."

Other platinum polishing compositions (such as "Composition Q") pursuant to some embodiments of the present invention comprise an alumina abrasive (alpha-, gamma-, or both), ammonium chloride (NH<sub>4</sub>Cl), and DI water. One example of component concentrations for Composition P is set forth below in Table XVII.

Please delete the paragraph [00138] on page 43 of the specification, and replace it with the replacement paragraph set forth below, which is marked to show the changes made, before the heading, "Composition U Component Concentration."

ale Other preferred ~~Platinum~~ platinum polishing compositions (such as "Composition U") pursuant to the present invention comprise an alumina abrasive (alpha-, gamma-, or both), hydroxylamine hydrochloride ( $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ ), and DI water. It is believed that the hydroxylamine hydrochloride serves as an oxidizing agent. One example of component concentrations for Composition U is set forth below in Table XXI.